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COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510



July 14, 1980

Joshua Lederberg, President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

It was indeed a pleasure to be with you at the Harrimans' a few weeks ago, and I particularly wanted to thank you for following up with the letter and the report on The Rockefeller University.

Too much of our research has grown to be looked at as waste effort in this country, and it is a trend we must absolutely reverse if we are to keep our preeminence among the nations of the world. There was an excellent book, of some ten years vintage by now, called "The American Challenge," by Jacques Servant-Schreiber, the French journalist and government official whose theme was that America went ahead of the rest of the world in a very short time period of history--not on the tremendous resources we had, but mainly because of our willingness to put greater effort into research and inquiry into the unknown than any other people in history. That, combined with our free enterprise system, led us to a preeminence among nations in a comparatively short time. I am afraid that in these days some other nations may be nurturing this goose that laid the golden egg more carefully than we are doing, at least as a percent of GNP. I believe the current figures are that our spending on research as a percent of GNP has declined some 23% in the last ten years, while Germany has gone up 45% and Japan has gone up some 65%. We are beginning to reap the results of that in our lessened preeminence in international trade, productivity, etc., and that is a trend that must be reversed. I know that your very basic research there at Rockefeller does not deal primarily in those areas, but I was extremely interested in your remarks at the Harrimans', and I look forward to seeing you again one of these days.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

John Glenn
John Glenn
United States Senator

I did see Sen. Glenn
very occasionally until
1998 when I served on
the TAG for Sen. Intel Com.
+ just before his space flight.
JG:g
7/99